

MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Merriam Christian Church

**9401 Johnson Dr.
Merriam, KS 66203**

(913) 432-2390

**Organist and Pianist
Emily Yeh**

**Secretary
Open**

SERVICES: SUNDAY WORSHIP

**10:00 a.m.
IN-PERSON**

[ONLINE](#)

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

**9:00 a.m.
IN-PERSON**

[ONLINE](#)

E-mail

**merriamchristian@gmail.com
www.merriamcc.org**

Newsletters

**jnethowe@gmail.com
913-558-6459**

“The Old Dented Bucket”

Shared by Walt Bohn

Our house was directly across the street from the clinic entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. We lived downstairs and rented the upstairs rooms to out-patients at the clinic.

One summer evening I was fixing supper, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to see a truly awful looking man. “Why, he’s hardly taller than my 8-year-old,” I thought as I stared at the stooped, shriveled body. But the appalling thing was his face, lopsided from swelling, red and raw.

Yet his voice was pleasant as he said, “Good Evening. I’ve come to see if you’ve a room for just one night. I came for a treatment this morning from the eastern shore, and there’s no bus ‘til morning.”

He told me he’d been hunting for a room since noon but with no success, no one seemed to have a room. “I guess it’s my face...I know it looks terrible, but my doctor says with a few more treatments.”

For a moment I hesitated, but his next words convinced me. “I could sleep in this rocking chair on the porch. My bus leaves early in the morning.”

I told him we would find him a bed, but to rest on the porch. I went inside and finished getting supper and when ready, asking if he would join us. “No, Thank you. I have plenty.” And held up a brown paper bag.

When I finished the dishes, I went out on the porch to talk with him a few minutes. It didn’t take a long time to see that this old man had an oversized heart crowded into a tiny body. He told me he fished for a living to support his daughter, her five children and her husband who was hopelessly crippled from a back injury.

He didn’t tell this by way of a complaint; in fact, every other sentence was prefaced with a thanks to God for a blessing. He was grateful that no pain accompanied his disease, which was apparently a form of skin cancer. He thanked God for giving him the strength to keep going.

At bedtime, we put a camp cot in the children’s room for him. When I got up in the morning, the bed linens were neatly folded, and the little man was out on the porch.

He refused breakfast, but just before he left for his bus, halting and asked a great favor, he said “Could I please come back and stay the next time I have treatment? I won’t put you out a bit. I can sleep fine in a chair” He paused a moment and then added, “Your children made me feel at home. Grownups are bothered by my face, but children don’t seem to mind”

I told him he was welcome to come again. On his next trip, he arrived a little after 7:00am. As a gift, he brought a big fish and a quart of the largest oysters I have ever seen! He said he had shucked them that morning before he left so that they’d be nice and fresh. I knew his bus left at 4:00am so I wondered what time he had to get up to do this for us.

In the years he came to stay overnight with us, there was never a time he didn’t bring a fish, oysters or vegetables from his garden. Other times we received packages in the mail, always by special delivery of fish and oysters packed in a box of fresh young spinach or kale, every leaf carefully washed. Knowing that he must walk three miles to mail these and knowing how little money he had made the gifts doubly precious.

When I received these little remembrances, I often thought of a comment our next-door neighbor made after he left that first morning. “Did you keep that awful looking man last night? I turned him away! You can lose roomers by putting up such people!”



Video Library

Worship Sermons

January 1st

["The Gifts We Give"](#)

January 8th

["Taking the Plunge"](#)

Children's Worship and Wonder
by Christina Stokes

January 1st

["Boy Jesus in the Temple"](#)

January 8th

["Jesus is Baptized"](#)

Warm Clothes Needed

Do you have warm clothing and shoes, that you no longer wear? Bring your coats, shoes, sweaters, sweats, any size, to church. We will donate them to Shawnee Community Services to keep our neighbors in need warm.

Multiple options of how you may give your tithes and offerings

- Write a check.
- <http://www.easytithe.com/merriamcc>
- Text giving: 913-444-6397

Maybe we did lose roomers once or twice. But, Oh! If only they could have known him, perhaps their illnesses would have been easier to bear. I know our family always will be grateful to have know him; from him we learned what it was to accept the bad without complaint and the good with gratitude to God.

Recently while visiting a friend, who has a greenhouse, as she showed me her flowers, we came to the most beautiful one of all, a golden chrysanthemum, bursting with blooms. But to my great surprise, it was growing in an old dented, rusty bucket. I thought to myself, "If this were my plant, I'd put it in the loveliest container I had!"

My friend changed my mind. "I ran short of flowerpots," she explained, "And knowing how beautiful this one would be, I thought it wouldn't mind starting out in this old pail. It's just a little while, till I can put it out in the garden"

She must have wondered why I laughed so delightedly, but I can imagine just such a scene in heaven.

"Here's an especially beautiful one," God might have said when he came to soul of the sweet old fishman. "He won't mind starting in this small body."

All this happened long ago – and now, in God's Garden, how tall this lovely soul must stand. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7B)

Friends are very special. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear and they share a word of praise.



Mark your calendar! Sunday February 19th is our 110th Anniversary AND the installation of Pastor Robin Colerick-Shinkle. Our Planning Committee is hard at work to make this a very special day!





Those Needing Prayer:

Continued prayers for **Joyce Campbell, Marilyn Near, Anita Collins** and **Jewel, son of Marjorie Willard.**

Pray for peace everywhere. Please pray for our Nation.

Please pray for Merriam Christian Church in this time of transition and pray for our community of faith.

Prayer Requests

Please contact Pat Reed at 913-631-0699 with prayer requests.

New Church Directory

The Membership Committee is working on a new church directory. Surveys have been sent out so we have updated information from everyone to include in the directory.

If you have not received a survey, contact Jeannette Howe at 913-558-6459 or jnethowe@gmail.com.



Boy Scouts Chili Supper

The Boy Scouts will be hosting a chili supper on January 31st at 7:00pm—8:30pm as a fund raiser.

Please mark this event on your calendar to help support our Boy Scout troops.

WHAT PROGRESS ARE WE MAKING IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR?

1 !	Our congregation's Board has consulted with our Regional/Area Minister regarding our Search for a new Pastor.	5	Our Regional/Area Minister has sent profiles of candidates to the Search Committee; they are being considered.
2	We have appointed a Search Committee. The members are:	6	The Search Committee has narrowed their focus to a short list of possible candidates.
Greg Spiegel _____ Bruce Roach _____ Michelle Land _____ Bob Pape _____ Carole Prentice _____ _____ _____		7	The Search Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates on the short list.
3	Our Search Committee has met with our Regional/Area Minister for an orientation.	8	One Pastoral Candidate has been recommended to us.
4	We have completed a Congregational Profile, Position Description and information packet for pastoral candidates.	9 YES	We have voted to call our next pastor, who will begin on <u>February 12th</u> .
10	The installation of <u>Robin Colerick-Schinkle</u> will be on Sunday <u>02/19</u> .		

LITURGIST SCHEDULE January & February 2023

January 15th	†	Connie Hennigh
January 22nd	†	Carole Prentice
January 29th	†	Heather Waite
February 5th	†	Joyce Luke
February 12th	†	Jan Pankey
February 19th	†	Pat Reed
February 26th	†	Nannette Ferguson

ELDERS SCHEDULE January, February & March 2023

January 15th	†	Pat Reed
January 22nd	†	Jon Beaver
January 29th	†	Mike Nichols
February 5th	†	Anita Collins
February 12th	†	Bob Pape
February 19th	†	Betty Bohn
February 26th	†	Pat Reed
March 5th	†	Jon Beaver
March 12th	†	Mike Nichols
March 19th	†	Anita Collins
March 26th	†	Bob Pape

Fellowship Coffee Hour

FEBRUARY 5TH	PASTORIAL RELATIONS
MARCH 5TH	MEMBERSHIP
APRIL 2ND	OUTREACH
MAY 7TH	HOUSE & GROUNDS
JUNE 5TH	PASTORIAL RELATIONS
JULY 2ND	MEMBERSHIP



BackSnacks Program

The BackSnacks program Packers schedule is posted in the food room and on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

Jan 15 week - Rick Ferguson

Jan 22 week - Alice Golf & Anita Minshew

Jan 29 week - Carole Prentice

Bags are to be packed during the week and ready for delivery on Thursday mornings

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Our Sunday School class meets from 9:00 - 9:45 each Sunday. Following our class time we have a 15 minute break to prepare for Morning Worship at 10:00. We have a nice group and if you haven't started back now would be a good time. Hopefully you will also find this a good support group in many areas.



January 17th - Walt & Betty Bohn
January 24th - Rick Ferguson & Susan Neill
January 31st - Jan Pankey & Pam Boyd

Pick up meals at 10:30 am at the Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater

**“Our lives begin to end
the day we become silent
about things that
matter.”**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

DWM NEWS

Hi Ladies,

The “Holidays” are over, and all is well. Plan to attend our January Third Thursday meeting the 19th at 1:00 in the library. We will continue our study Forgiving What You Can't Forget. All are welcome to attend. The more the merrier and the better the discussion.

Continue to save empty pill bottles, old eyeglasses, and can tabs. Also, if you have gently used warm clothing that you no longer need, the Shawnee Community Services can use your donations. Bring your items to the Church and Connie and I will deliver for you.

Looking ahead; February will be busy with our Church Anniversary and our new Minister arriving. All is well. That's all for now.

Joyce Luke
Treasurer/Service

Join us in
worship on
[Youtube](#).



**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE services &
study sessions with family, friends and
neighbors**

